



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

### FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For immediate release: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1943

Production of pilchards or California sardines during the current season totaled 246,050 tons by the end of October, an increase of 8 percent over production during the comparable period last year, it was reported today to Coordinator of Fisheries Harold L. Ickes.

The California pilchard season begins August 1 in the northern and central districts of the State and October 1 in the southern district. Fishing for pilchards, which are the leading U. S. fish in terms of volume of production, continues until the end of February in the north and to the end of March in the south.

The pack of canned sardines, which was lagging behind last year's figure during the early weeks of the season, has now increased to 1,437,863 cases, or 2 percent better than last year's pack at the end of October.

Production of oil and meal, important by-products of the fishery, showed increases of 13 and 7 percent, respectively. By October 31, 8,619,673 gallons of oil and 37,545 tons of meal had been produced, compared with 7,651,511 gallons and 34,999 tons last season.

In spite of the increase in total production, the pilchard season has not been uniformly successful throughout California. Landings at the ports of San Francisco and Monterey increased 27 and 6 percent, respectively, but at the southern ports of San Pedro and San Diego landings were 15 percent under last year's for the first month of fishing.

\*\*\*